

Growing up on Chicago's North Shore, I've shared an appreciation for the arts. With a district that includes some of the the best educated zip codes in the country, we are leaders in art, culture, math and science.

Friday I hosted over 50 parents and young artists in my office to share this year's Congressional Art Competiton, "An Artististic Discovery." The North Shore Art League judged the work of 25 artists from 9 high schools.

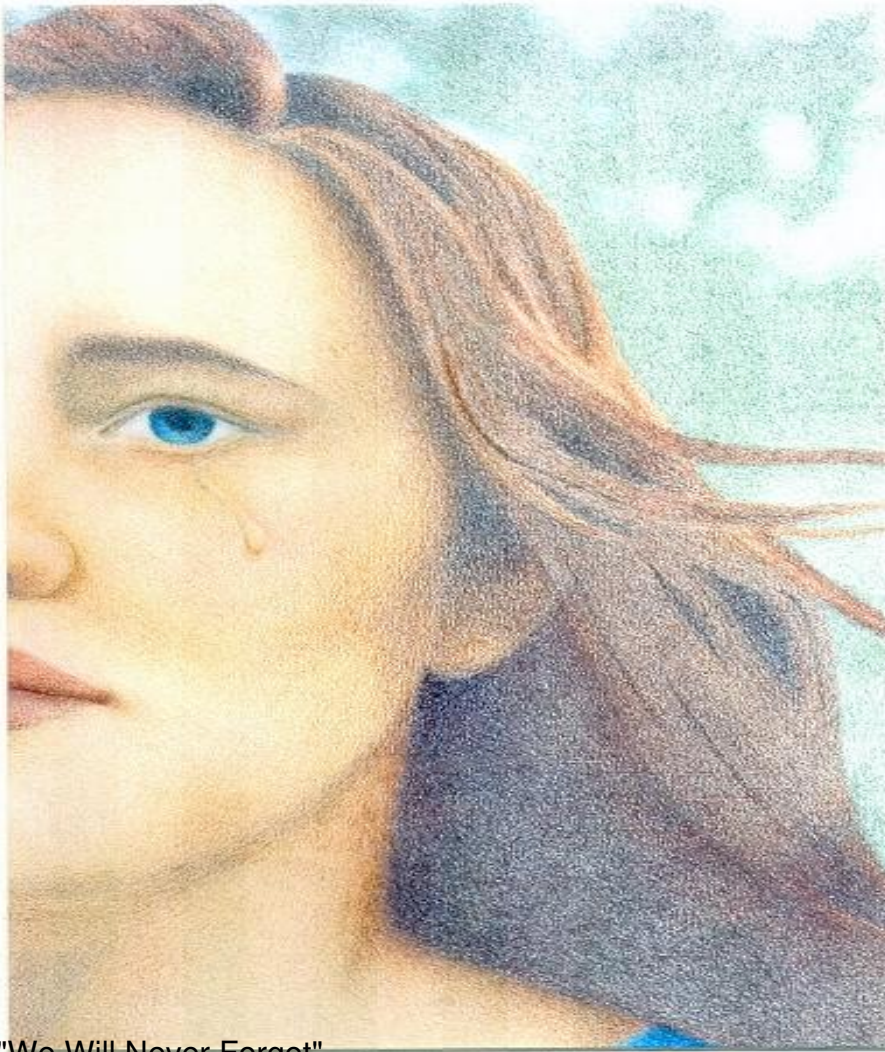
Hoffman Estates High School senior Renee Kimpel earned top honors for her colored pencil drawing titled "We Will Never Forget." Fellow Hoffman Estates senior Anthony Cruz won second place for "Charge for Honor," an original digital illustration. Third place went to "Western Wranglers," an oil painting by Lake Forest High School junior Jessi Dorman.

I want to thank Southwest Airlines for present the winner with three round-trip airline tickets to the Capitol reception in June. I also want to thank JP Morgan Chase for awarding savings bonds to our top finishers.

Renee's drawing will hang in the US Capitol this summer. Anthony and Jessi's pieces will be on display at my Washington office. Other art contest participants will have their artwork showcased in my Northbrook District office for the year.



Renee Kimpel (winner), Congressman Kirk, Cynthia Surtz (teacher), Diana DeMeuse (North Shore Art League)



"We Will Never Forget"



Anthony Cruz from Hoffman Estates





Jessi Dorman from Lake Forest